

November 23, 2020 Covid Update

Selectman Anthony Vegnani wished residents a Happy Thanksgiving. He reminded everyone to be aware of Covid over the holidays, to shop locally, and donate to the food pantry. He said this Saturday is Small Business Saturday and urged residents to go to the Harbor and North Scituate and support local businesses.

Town Administrator Jim Boudreau said Scituate saw 25 new Covid cases over the past week up from 22 the previous week. He said the majority are new cases at new addresses. The town is now yellow on the state Covid map. The town's positivity rate is 2.72 percent over the past 14 days, up from 1.73 percent.

He said the CDC and Mass. Dept. of Public Health urge people to stay at home over the holiday. They are concerned that Thanksgiving could be a super-spreader event leading to a larger outbreak. People should limit their gatherings to people they live with or small groups they are in regular contact with. State guidelines limit indoor gatherings to no more than 10 people and

outdoor gatherings to no more than 25 people. He said people should wear masks and social distance if possible.

Mr. Boudreau reminded citizens who are planning to travel that the state travel restrictions may apply to them. Those restrictions require a negative Covid test 72 hours prior to arrival back in the state. There is a link to the state guidelines at: scituatema.gov.

If the numbers continue to rise then a rollback in openings may occur. Boudreau reminded citizens that risky behavior puts everyone else at risk.

The drought is now moderate down from severe. The reservoir is 38.84 percent up from 37.14 percent. Usage is at 478,000 gallons per day.

The water department is conducting no-contact, seasonal shut-offs. If a resident wants a shut-off, then go to water department tab on the town website to fill out the form. [[Scituatema.gov](https://scituatema.gov)]

Cole Parkway project fences are up for storage at the site. Traffic is being redirected. The project will begin in earnest this winter.

Superintendent of Schools William Burkhead said there were 16 Covid cases in the past week: 13 at SHS, which is

on full remote learning right now and will return Monday after the holiday. There were 2 cases at Gates and one at Jenkins. There is no evidence that any of the cases originated in the schools.

He reminded parents that the state requires all students receive a flu vaccination by Dec. 31 to remain in school. Forward documentation to the building school nurse.

Supt. Burkhead asked parents to review school department travel protocol guidelines in Thursday Thoughts. If anyone has questions, they should contact their school nurse or principal.

Burkhead gave a shout-out for the support of the school articles at the Special Town Meeting. He gave a Sailor Shout-out to all the school paraprofessionals in honor of National Paraprofessionals Week.